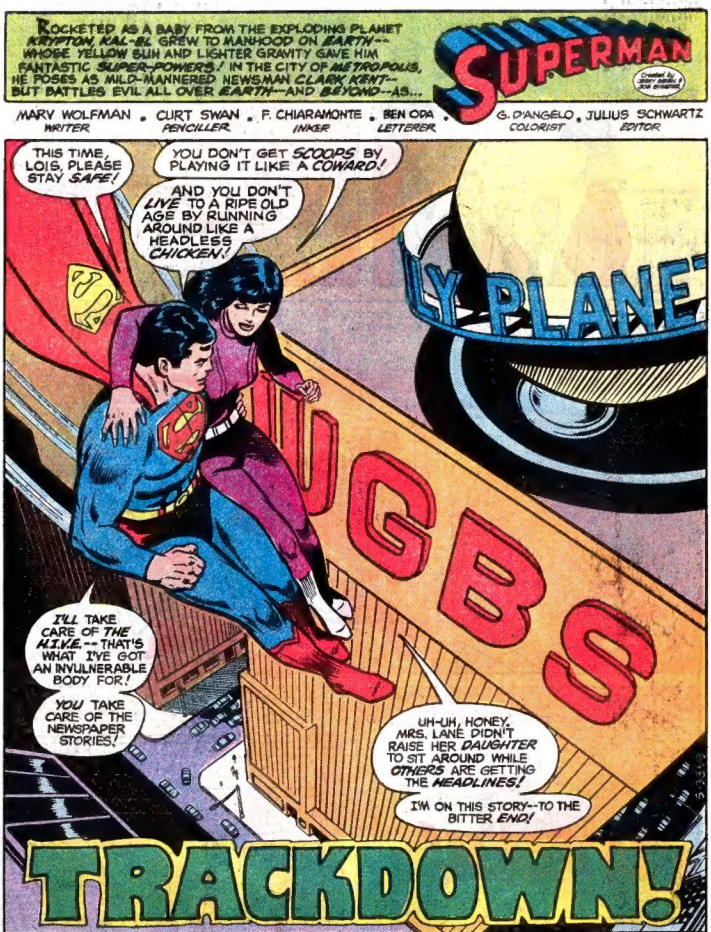
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
ALL NEW!
60¢
NO. 533
JULY
THE VILLAINOUS H.I.V.E. HAS SENTENCED JIMMY OLSEN TO DEATH--
--BUT GUESS WHO'S ABOUT TO GET STUNG!
BUCKLER & GIORDANO
ACTION-PLUS WITH THE ATOM™ and HAIR WAVE™


ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...
SUPERMAN
MARV WOLFMAN WRITER
CURT SWAN PENCILLER
F. CHIARAMONTE INKER
BEN ODA LETTERER
G. D'ANGELO COLORIST
JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITOR
THIS TIME, LOIS, PLEASE STAY SAFE!
YOU DON'T GET SCOOPS BY PLAYING IT LIKE A COWARD!
AND YOU DON'T LIVE TO A RIPE OLD AGE BY RUNNING AROUND LIKE A HEADLESS CHICKEN!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE H.I.V.E.--THAT'S WHAT I'VE GOT AN INVULNERABLE BODY FOR!
YOU TAKE CARE OF THE NEWSPAPER STORIES!
UH-UH, HONEY. MRS. LANE DIDN'T RAISE HER DAUGHTER TO SIT AROUND WHILE OTHERS ARE GETTING THE HEADLINES!
I'M ON THIS STORY--TO THE BITTER END!
TRACKDOWN!

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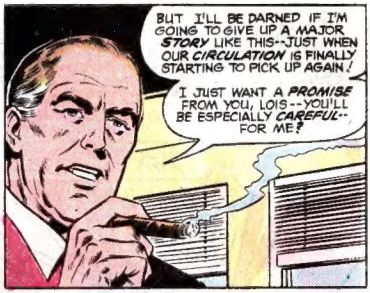
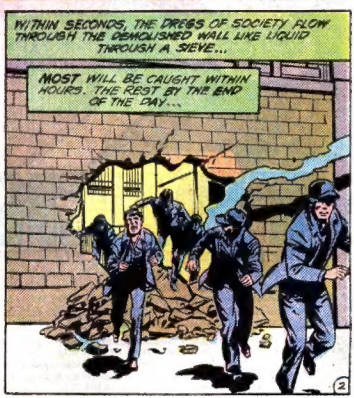
BESIDES, PERRY, I NOW HAVE PROOF! ON THE 16TH, THE H.I.V.E. IS GOING TO ATTACK THE S.T.A.R. LAB'S NUCLEAR REACTOR!
AND I'M THE ONLY REPORTER TO HAVE AN EXCLUSIVE!
I DON'T LIKE THIS, LOIS. I'D PREFER LETTING SUPERMAN AND THE POLICE HANDLE THE REST...


BUT I'LL BE DARNED IF I'M GOING TO GIVE UP A MAJOR STORY LIKE THIS--JUST WHEN OUR CIRCULATION IS FINALLY STARTING TO PICK UP AGAIN!
I JUST WANT A PROMISE FROM YOU, LOIS--YOU'LL BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL-- FOR ME?

AS FOR YOU, OLSEN--S.T.A.R.'S SHIPPING OUT RADIOACTIVE WASTE EARLY THE SAME DAY THEIR REACTOR REOPENS.
YOU COVER THE STORY FROM THAT ANGLE!
GOT YOU, CHIEF.
OLSEN, WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF I CALLED YOU "FRECKLES"?
I'D LOVE IT, CHIEF!
SIGH!

YOU PEOPLE BE CAREFUL OUT THERE.
IN THE MEANTIME, I'VE GOT TO MAKE PLANS FOR TOMORROW.
THIS TIME I INTEND TO CAPTURE THE H.I.V.E. AND PUT THEM AWAY-- FOR KEEPS!

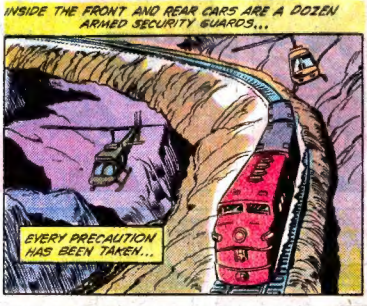
METROPOLIS PRISON, WHERE THE CALM ROUTINE OF THE DAY IS SUDDENLY INTERRUPTED BY...
KRA-BLAM!

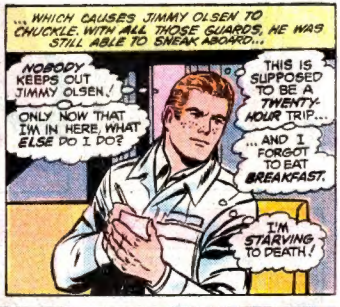

WITHIN SECONDS, THE DREGS OF SOCIETY FLOW THROUGH THE DEMOLISHED WALL LIKE LIQUID THROUGH A SIEVE...
MOST WILL BE CAUGHT WITHIN HOURS. THE REST BY THE END OF THE DAY...
2

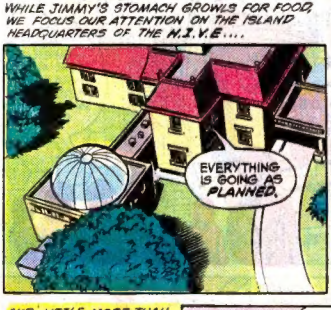
ACTUALLY, NOT ALL THE REST.
WITHIN MOMENTS, HELICOPTER AND PRISONER ARE GONE...
WHICH BRINGS US TO THE S.T.A.R. NUCLEAR REACTOR EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, WHERE...
HOW SAD HAVING TO SEE ALL THOSE PROTESTORS.
ONCE NUCLEAR POWER WAS CONSIDERED A PANACEA--IT WAS GOING TO FREE US FROM DEPENDENCE ON RAPIDLY DEPLETING OIL RESERVES.
THEN THREE MILE ISLAND HAPPENED AND WE REALIZED HOW MUCH MORE RESEARCH AND PROTECTION WE NEED FROM THE VERY FORCES THAT EVENTUALLY WILL SERVE US.
BUT THESE PEOPLE WANT TO STOP THE REOPENING OF THE PLANT...
...ON THE VERY SAME DAY THE M.I.M.E. INTENDS TO ATTACK, WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE HERE--
--I'M REALLY AFRAID THAT SOME INNOCENT BYSTANDER IS GOING TO BE HURT.
WHILE CLARK SCOUTS THE REACTOR'S PERIMETER, JIMMY OLSEN IS BUSY ON AN ASSIGNMENT OF HIS OWN...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN I CAN'T BOARD THE TRAIN? I'M A REPORTER ...I HAD CLEARANCE!
ALL CLEARANCE WAS CANCELLED! THERE MIGHT BE DANGER!
OKAY, OKAY, I'LL FIND SOMETHING ELSE TO COVER.
LIKE HECK I WILL!
I THOUGHT THERE'D BE A SWAG... WHICH IS WHY I BROUGHT ALONG THESE WORKMAN'S OVERALLS.
OLSEN, WHEN IS THE WORLD GOING TO REALIZE THAT YOU'RE A GENIUS?
3

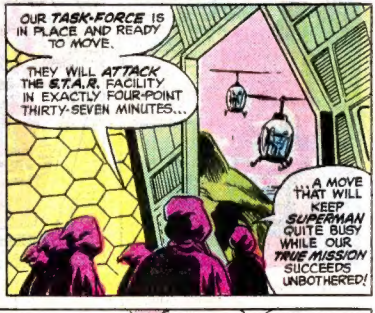
MEANWHILE...
PERRY WHITE YOU'VE HAD IT!
"DON'T WORRY, LOIS. I'LL SEND A CAR TO TAKE YOU TO THE REACTOR."
ONLY NO CAR'S SHOWN UP, AND NOW I'M TOO LATE... EH?
RRRING RRRING
AND, AS LOIS ANSWERS THE PHONE...
LANE? THIS IS ALICE SMITH. YOU REMEMBER YOU ARRESTED ME ON THAT M.I.V.E. JOB.
WELL, LISTEN, LANE, I BUSTED FREE...
...AND IF YOUR PAPER WILL KEEP ME SAFE FROM THE M.I.V.E., I'LL SPILL MY GUTS!
UH, SURE, ALICE. LET'S MEET AND TALK.
AND...
IF THIS ISN'T A TRAP, THEN I'M DAFFY DUCK!
BUT THE M.I.V.E. IS UP TO SOMETHING, AND I MEAN TO FIND OUT WHAT.
PERRY WHITE, YOU RUINED ONE STORY, BUT I'LL GET A BIGGER ONE!
NOW, LET US RETURN TO THE S.T.A.R. NUCLEAR REACTOR...
THIS IS CLARK KENT FOR GBS NEWS. THE FIRST CONTROVERSIAL STEP IN TODAY'S DAY OF CONTROVERSY BEGINS...
...AS THE RAILWAY TRAIN CARRYING SEVERAL TONS OF NUCLEAR WASTE BEGINS ITS JOURNEY TO AN OFF-SHORE DUMPING SITE...
...A JOURNEY THAT WILL TAKE THIS SPECIALLY-BUILT, LEAD-LINED TRAIN THROUGH THE VERY HEART OF METROPOLIS...
STOP THE NUKES
NO NUK
...A MOVE THAT HAS THOUSANDS OF OUR CITIZENS UP IN ARMS.
BUT EVEN THIS EVENT WILL PALE BEFORE WHAT COMES LATER TODAY AS PROTESTORS GEAR-UP TO STORM S.T.A.R.'S TROUBLE-PLAGUED FACILITY FROM RE-OPENING AT NOON.
NO MORE NUKES
4
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

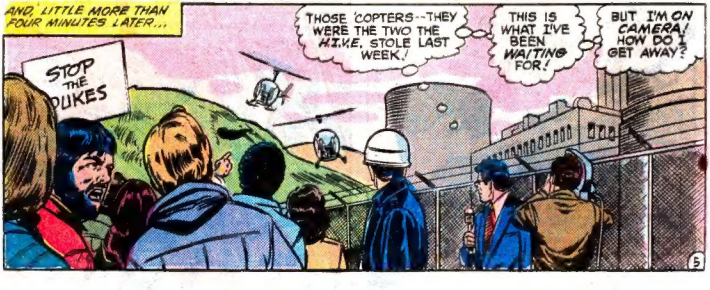
THE SPECIAL TRAIN TAKES OFF AT SPEEDS OF MORE THAN NINETY MILES AN HOUR...
FLANKING THE CENTER CAR WHICH CONTAINS THE CANNISTERS OF RADIO-ACTIVE WASTE ARE TWO ARMY HELICOPTERS...

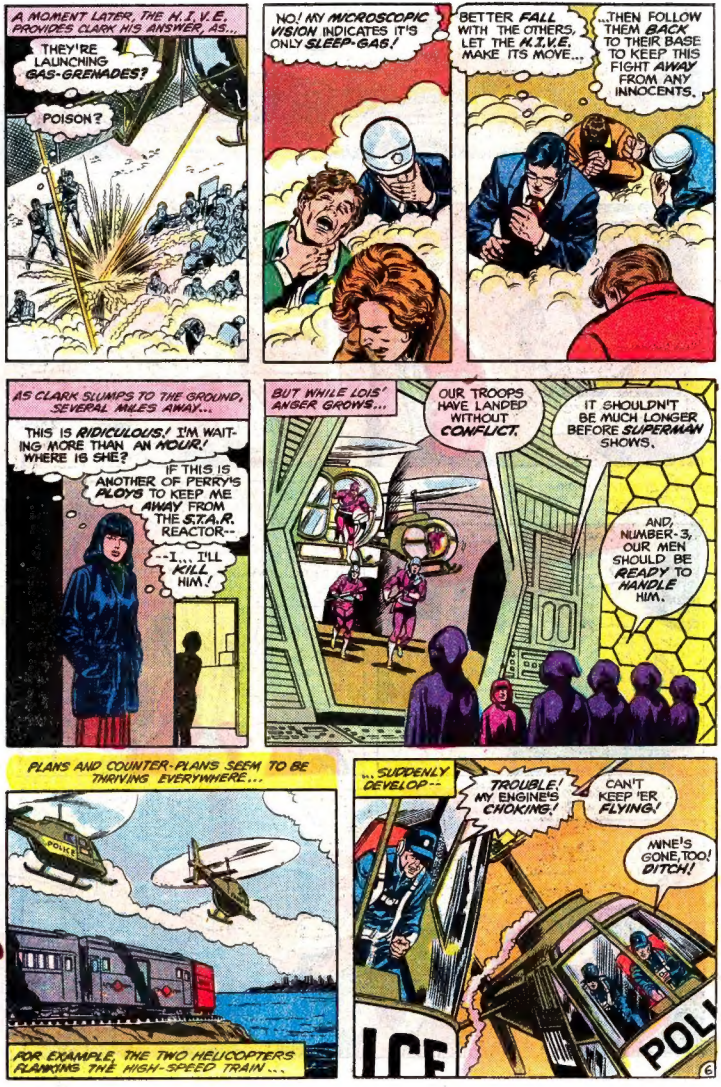

INSIDE THE FRONT AND REAR CARS ARE A DOZEN ARMED SECURITY GUARDS...
EVERY PRECAUTION HAS BEEN TAKEN...


...WHICH CAUSES JIMMY OLSEN TO CHUCKLE. WITH ALL THOSE GUARDS, HE WAS STILL ABLE TO SNEAK ABOARD...
NOBODY KEEPS OUT JIMMY OLSEN!
ONLY NOW THAT I'M IN HERE, WHAT ELSE DO I DO?
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A TWENTY-HOUR TRIP...
...AND I FORGOT TO EAT BREAKFAST.
I'M STARVING TO DEATH!


WHILE JIMMY'S STOMACH GROWLS FOR FOOD, WE FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON THE ISLAND HEADQUARTERS OF THE M.I.V.E....
EVERYTHING IS GOING AS PLANNED.


OUR TASK-FORCE IS IN PLACE AND READY TO MOVE.
THEY WILL ATTACK THE S.T.A.R. FACILITY IN EXACTLY FOUR-POINT THIRTY-SEVEN MINUTES...
A MOVE THAT WILL KEEP SUPERMAN QUITE BUSY WHILE OUR TRUE MISSION SUCCEEDS UNBOTHERED!


AND, LITTLE MORE THAN FOUR MINUTES LATER...
STOP THE DUKES
THOSE 'COPTERS--THEY WERE THE TWO THE M.I.V.E. STOLE LAST WEEK!
THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
BUT I'M ON CAMERA! HOW DO I GET AWAY?
5


A MOMENT LATER, THE H.I.V.E. PROVIDES CLARK HIS ANSWER, AS...
THEY'RE LAUNCHING GAS-GRENADES?
POISON?
NO! MY MICROSCOPIC VISION INDICATES IT'S ONLY SLEEP-GAS!
BETTER FALL WITH THE OTHERS, LET THE H.I.V.E. MAKE ITS MOVE...
...THEN FOLLOW THEM BACK TO THEIR BASE TO KEEP THIS FIGHT AWAY FROM ANY INNOCENTS.
AS CLARK SLUMPS TO THE GROUND, SEVERAL MILES AWAY...
THIS IS RIDICULOUS! I'M WAITING MORE THAN AN HOUR! WHERE IS SHE?
IF THIS IS ANOTHER OF PERRY'S PLOYS TO KEEP ME AWAY FROM THE S.T.A.R. REACTOR--
--I... I'LL KILL HIM!
BUT WHILE LOIS' ANGER GROWS...
OUR TROOPS HAVE LANDED WITHOUT CONFLICT.
IT SHOULDN'T BE MUCH LONGER BEFORE SUPERMAN SHOWS.
AND, NUMBER-3, OUR MEN SHOULD BE READY TO HANDLE HIM.
PLANS AND COUNTER-PLANS SEEM TO BE THRIVING EVERYWHERE...
POLICE
FOR EXAMPLE, THE TWO HELICOPTERS FLANKING THE HIGH-SPEED TRAIN...
...SUDDENLY DEVELOP--
TROUBLE! MY ENGINE'S CHOKING!
CAN'T KEEP 'ER FLYING!
MINE'S GONE, TOO! DITCH!
ICE
POL
6

PLEASE NOTE, DEAR READER, THERE IS NO COINCIDENCE IN THESE TWO CHOPPERS SIMULTANEOUSLY FAILING...

INDEED, THE DAMAGE WAS DONE LONG-DISTANCE...

...BY A NARROW MICROWAVE BEAM PROJECTED BY TWO OTHER 'COPTERS THAT SUDDENLY SWOOP LOW ABOVE THE SPEEDING TRAIN...

THEIR BOMBAY DOORS SLIDE OPEN. HEAVY STEEL CABLES DESCEND...

CABLES OUTFITTED WITH POWERFUL MAGNETIC GRAPPLERS...

...THAT CLAMP TIGHT ON THE TRAIN'S OUTER SHELL...

WHILE INSIDE...

WHAT IN THE WORLD? EVERYTHING'S SHAKING!

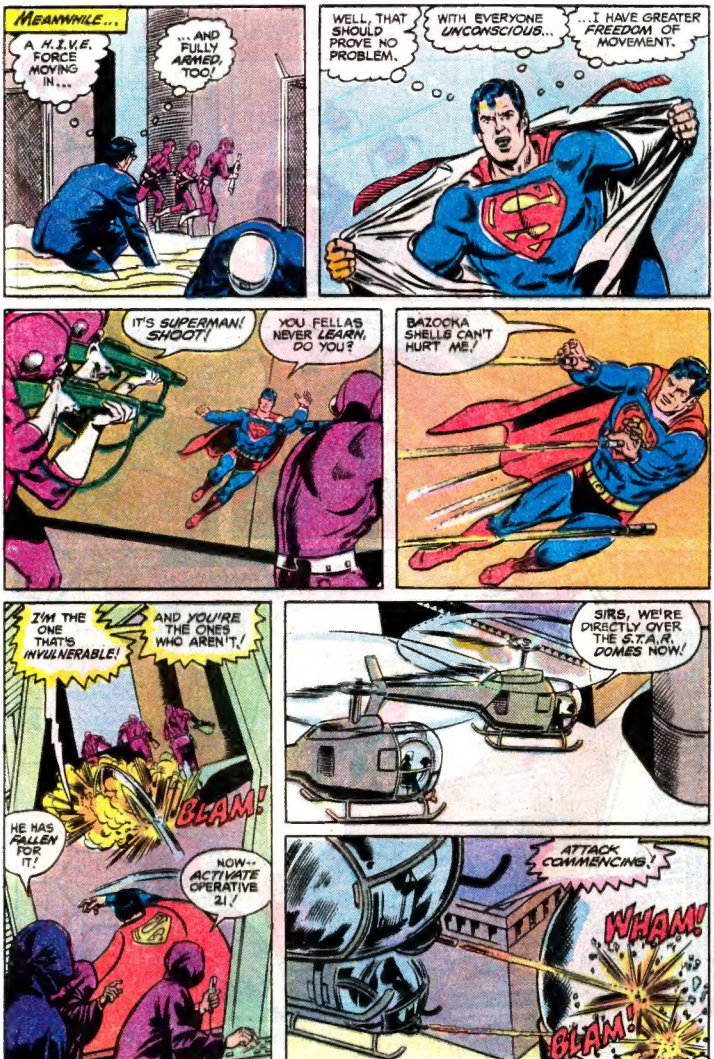
C-CAN'T KEEP MY BALANCE!

JIMMY FALLS EVEN AS THE TRAIN-CAR RISES SKYWARD...

SOON, IN PERFECT PRECISION, THE TWO CHOPPERS WILL WHISK THEIR PRIZE AWAY...

THIS, THEN, IS THE H.I.V.E.'S TRUE SCHEME. THEY WERE NOT AFTER THE S.T.A.R. NUCLEAR PAYLOAD WHICH THEY ARRANGED TO BE PROTECTED BY SUPERMAN...

...BUT THE DEADLY RADIOACTIVE WASTE, A PRODUCT THEY DESPERATELY NEED IF THEIR GRAND SCHEME IS TO SUCCEED...



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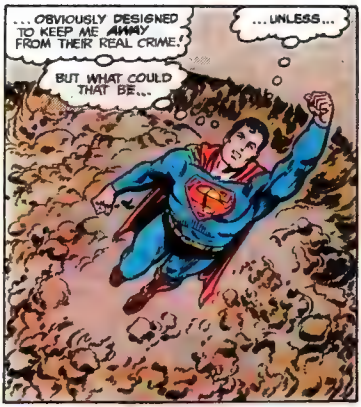
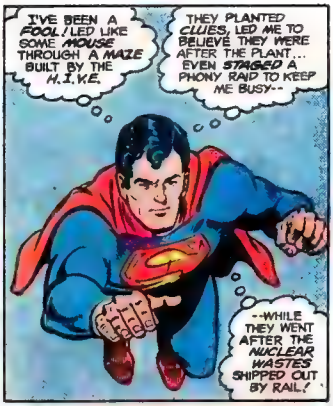
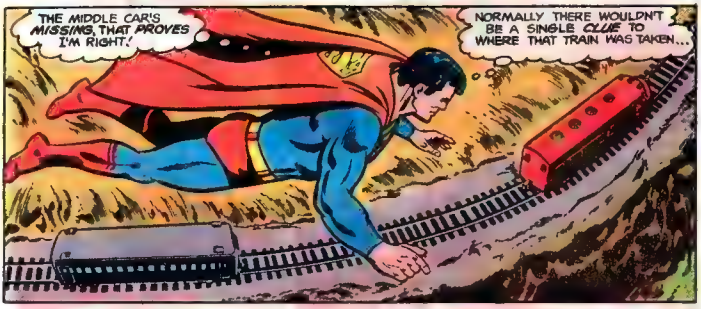
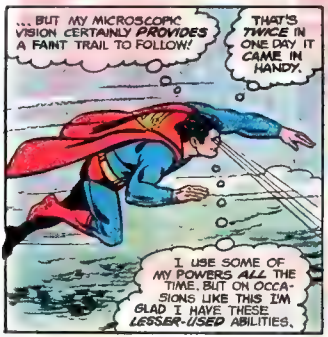
GREAT KRYPTON! THEIR MISSILES PUNCTURED THE NUCLEAR DOMES!
RADIATION COULD ESCAPE UNLESS I MOVE QUICKLY!
TROUBLE IS, THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
THERE'S NO PURPOSE TO THIS ATTACK...
...UNLESS IT'S TO KEEP ME BUSY!
I THOUGHT THEY WERE AFTER THE PLUTONIUM STORED HERE, OR EVEN THE NUCLEAR RODS!
BUT THEY'RE NOT EVEN MAKING A MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION!
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CHECK THIS OUT--
--AFTER I'VE BURIED THESE DOMES...
WHUMP!
...UNDER MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED FEET OF SOLID ROCK!
ONCE I'VE COVERED IT OVER, I CAN FIGURE OUT THIS MESS.
COME TO THINK OF IT, THEIR ASSAULT TEAM IS FAR TOO SMALL FOR A FULL-SCALE ATTACK.
SOMETHING TELLS ME THIS DEFINITELY IS A DIVERSION!...


...OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO KEEP ME AWAY FROM THEIR REAL CRIME!
...UNLESS...
BUT WHAT COULD THAT BE...


I'VE BEEN A FOOL! LED LIKE SOME MOUSE THROUGH A MAZE BUILT BY THE H.I.K.E.
THEY PLANTED CLUES, LED ME TO BELIEVE THEY WERE AFTER THE PLANT... EVEN STAGED A PHONY RAID TO KEEP ME BUSY--
--WHILE THEY WENT AFTER THE NUCLEAR WASTES SHIPPED OUT BY RAIL!

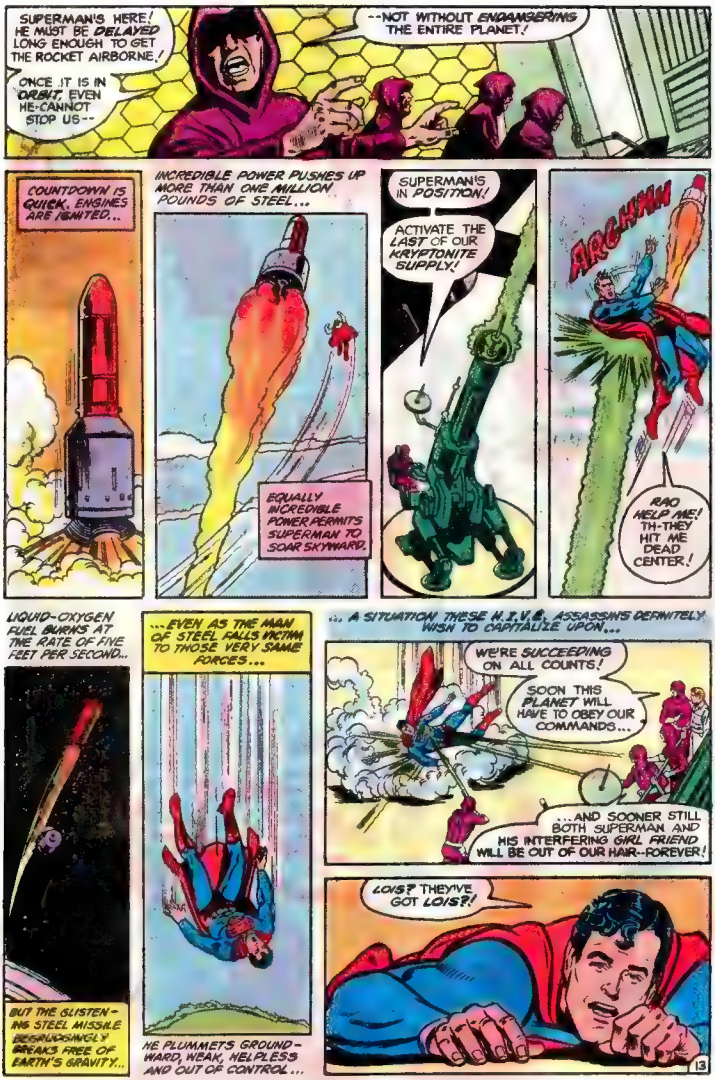

THE MIDDLE CAR'S MISSING, THAT PROVES I'M RIGHT!
NORMALLY THERE WOULDN'T BE A SINGLE CLUE TO WHERE THAT TRAIN WAS TAKEN...

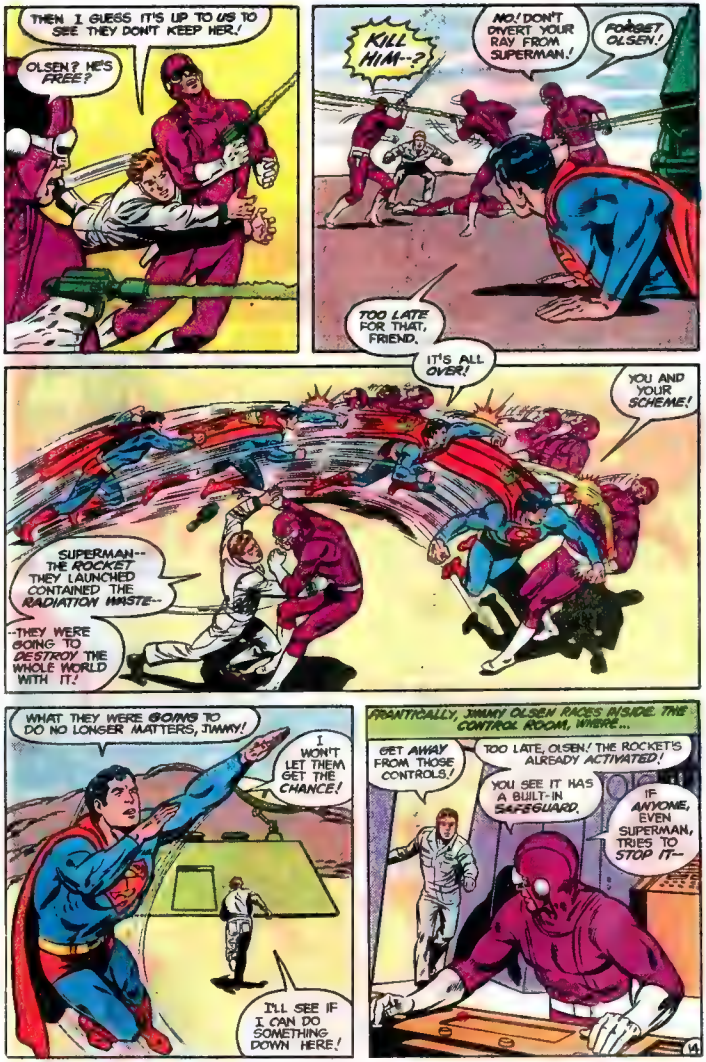

...BUT MY MICROSCOPIC VISION CERTAINLY PROVIDES A FAINT TRAIL TO FOLLOW!
THAT'S TWICE IN ONE DAY IT CAME IN HANDY.
I USE SOME OF MY POWERS ALL THE TIME, BUT ON OCCASIONS LIKE THIS I'M GLAD I HAVE THESE LESSER-USED ABILITIES.

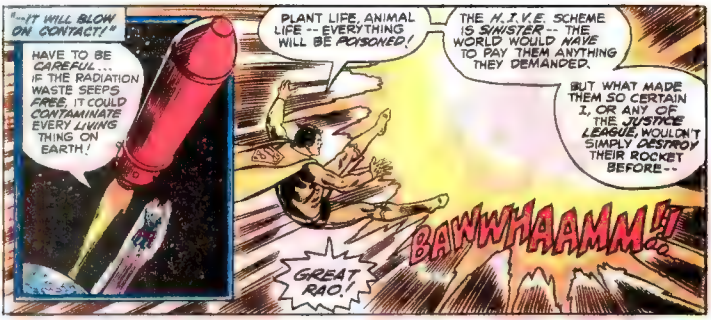
THE TRAIL'S LEADING OUT TO SEA, WHICH MAKES SOME SENSE.
THE FIRST H.I.K.E. BASE I DESTROYED WAS ALSO OCEAN-BASED.
WELL, I'M COMING FOR YOU, H.I.K.E. AND IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME--
--BEFORE WE MEET-- FIST-TO-FACE!

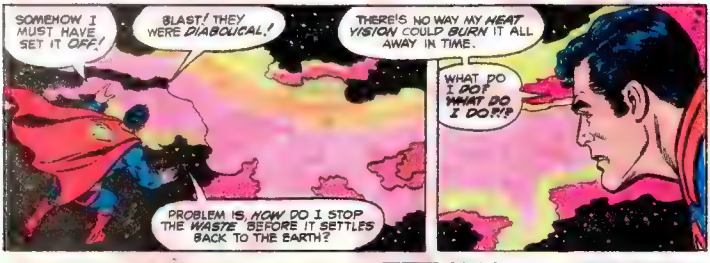
MEANWHILE...
TWO HOURS! I'VE HAD IT!
IF THIS ALICE SMITH WANTS ME, SHE KNOWS WHERE I LIVE.
BUT AS LOIS RETURNS TO HER APARTMENT...
MISS LANE, I FELT IT WOULD BE FAR MORE TRAGIC--
--IF YOU MET YOUR FATE HERE IN YOUR OWN HOME!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOUR DEATH, MISS LANE!
THE H.I.V.E. ASSIGNED ME TO KILL YOU!
BUT HOW SLOW AND UNPLEASANT THAT DEATH IS, WELL, THAT IS MY DECISION!
I WANT YOU TO CRAWL, MISS LANE! I WANT YOU TO BEG FIRST!
AND AS LOIS FIGHTS FOR HER VERY LIFE, WE RETURN TO JIMMY OLSEN, WHO...
I COULD BE A HERO IN THIS, OR I COULD BE SMART.
FOR ONCE I'M GOING TO USE MY BRAINS INSTEAD OF MY MACHISMO--
ONLY THING IS, WILL MY ULTRASONIC SIGNAL-MATCH PENETRATE THE LEAD-SHIELDING?
BUT BEFORE JIMMY'S QUESTION CAN BE ANSWERED...
SOMEONE INSIDE-- CAPTURE HIM!
UH-OH, SUDDENLY IT'S ALL HIT THE FAN!
IF I COULD RUN, GET AWAY FROM--
ARGHHH!
HE'S DOWN! TAKE HIM TO THE DUNGEON BEFORE HE REVIVES!
I WILL NOTIFY THE HIGH COUNCIL!
JIMMY BALLS, LOIS IS IN DIRE DANGER. BUT WHAT OF THE ACTION ACE...?
THE RADIATION TRAIL'S GETTING FAINT...
...ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO FOLLOW.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF MOMENTS BEFORE I LOSE IT ALTOGETHER.
11

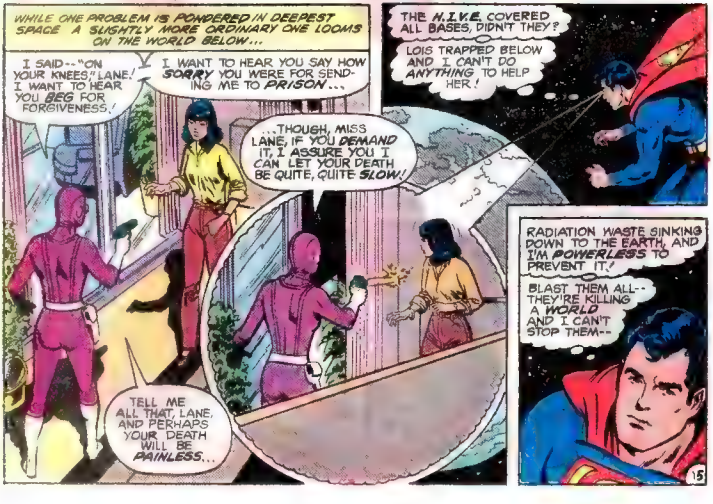
AS THE MAN OF TOMORROW INCREASES HIS SPEED AND DETERMINATION...
TAKE THE CANNISTERS TO THE ROCKET! LOAD THEM ON BOARD, QUICKLY!
LAUNCH-TIME IS SET FOR FIVE MINUTES!
BUT AS THE M.I.V.E. OFFICER REPORTS TO THE CENTRAL COUNCIL...
THE ROCKETS ARE LOADED, SIRS, AND OUR PRISONER IS SECURE.
WHAT PRISONER?
A STOWAWAY ABOARD THE TRAIN... HIS PRESS-CARD CALLED HIM JIMMY OLSEN.
OLSEN?! YOU FOOL! GET TO HIM! STOP HIM BEFORE HE ACTIVATES...
--MY SIGNAL-WATCH! NOW THAT I'M OUT OF THAT LEAD-LINED COFFIN, I CAN USE IT!
GOTTA GET MY SUPER-BUDDY HERE FAST!
BUT...
HALT, OLSEN! MOVE AND YOU'RE DEAD!
TOO LATE, CREEP! YOU MAY KILL ME, BUT I'VE GOT A FRIEND WHO'LL MOP THE FLOOR WITH YOU!
KILL HIM! WE'LL WORRY ABOUT SUPERMAN IF HE SHOWS!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
NOT "IF," GUYS-- WHEN!
AND THAT'S WHEN AS IN-- NOW!
MAN, ARE YOU A WELCOME SIGHT!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
ALWAYS GLAD TO OBLIGE, PAL!
12


SUPERMAN'S HERE! HE MUST BE DELAYED LONG ENOUGH TO GET THE ROCKET AIRBORNE!
ONCE IT IS IN ORBIT, EVEN HE CANNOT STOP US--
--NOT WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE ENTIRE PLANET!
COUNTDOWN IS QUICK, ENGINES ARE IGNITED...
INCREDIBLE POWER PUSHES UP MORE THAN ONE MILLION POUNDS OF STEEL...
EQUALLY INCREDIBLE POWER PERMITS SUPERMAN TO SOAR SKYWARD.
SUPERMAN'S IN POSITION!
ACTIVATE THE LAST OF OUR KRYPTONITE SUPPLY!
ARGHHH
RAO HELP ME! TH-THEY HIT ME DEAD CENTER!
LIQUID-OXYGEN FUEL BURNS AT THE RATE OF FIVE FEET PER SECOND...
BUT THE GLISTENING STEEL MISSILE DEFIANTLY BREAKS FREE OF EARTH'S GRAVITY...
...EVEN AS THE MAN OF STEEL FALLS VICTIM TO THOSE VERY SAME FORCES...
HE PLUMMETS GROUNDWARD, WEAK, HELPLESS AND OUT OF CONTROL...
... A SITUATION THESE H.I.V.E. ASSASSINS DEFINITELY WISH TO CAPITALIZE UPON...
WE'RE SUCCEEDING ON ALL COUNTS!
SOON THIS PLANET WILL HAVE TO OBEY OUR COMMANDS...
...AND SOONER STILL BOTH SUPERMAN AND HIS INTERFERING GIRL FRIEND WILL BE OUT OF OUR HAIR--FOREVER!
LOIS? THEY'VE GOT LOIS?!
13


THEN I GUESS IT'S UP TO US TO SEE THEY DON'T KEEP HER!
OLSEN? HE'S FREE?
KILL HIM--?!
NO! DON'T DIVERT YOUR RAY FROM SUPERMAN!
FORGET OLSEN!
TOO LATE FOR THAT, FRIEND.
IT'S ALL OVER!
YOU AND YOUR SCHEME!
SUPERMAN-- THE ROCKET THEY LAUNCHED CONTAINED THE RADIATION WASTE--
--THEY WERE GOING TO DESTROY THE WHOLE WORLD WITH IT!
WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO NO LONGER MATTERS, JIMMY!
I WON'T LET THEM GET THE CHANCE!
I'LL SEE IF I CAN DO SOMETHING DOWN HERE!
FRANTICALLY, JIMMY OLSEN RACES INSIDE THE CONTROL ROOM, WHERE...
GET AWAY FROM THOSE CONTROLS!
TOO LATE, OLSEN! THE ROCKET'S ALREADY ACTIVATED!
YOU SEE IT HAS A BUILT-IN SAFEGUARD.
IF ANYONE, EVEN SUPERMAN, TRIES TO STOP IT--
14


"...IT WILL BLOW ON CONTACT!"
HAVE TO BE CAREFUL... IF THE RADIATION WASTE SEEPS FREE, IT COULD CONTAMINATE EVERY LIVING THING ON EARTH!
PLANT LIFE, ANIMAL LIFE -- EVERYTHING WILL BE POISONED!
THE H.I.V.E. SCHEME IS SINISTER -- THE WORLD WOULD HAVE TO PAY THEM ANYTHING THEY DEMANDED.
BUT WHAT MADE THEM SO CERTAIN I, OR ANY OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, WOULDN'T SIMPLY DESTROY THEIR ROCKET BEFORE--
GREAT RAO!
BAWWHAAMM!!

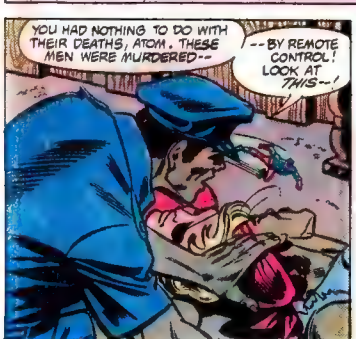

SOMEHOW I MUST HAVE SET IT OFF!
BLAST! THEY WERE DIABOLICAL!
PROBLEM IS, HOW DO I STOP THE WASTE BEFORE IT SETTLES BACK TO THE EARTH?
THERE'S NO WAY MY HEAT VISION COULD BURN IT ALL AWAY IN TIME.
WHAT DO I DO? WHAT DO I DO?!?

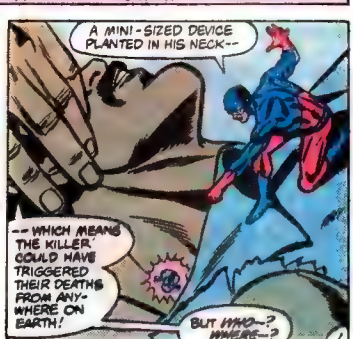

WHILE ONE PROBLEM IS PONDERED IN DEEPEST SPACE A SLIGHTLY MORE ORDINARY ONE LOOMS ON THE WORLD BELOW...
I SAID--"ON YOUR KNEES," LANE! I WANT TO HEAR YOU BEG FOR FORGIVENESS!
I WANT TO HEAR YOU SAY HOW SORRY YOU WERE FOR SENDING ME TO PRISON...
...THOUGH, MISS LANE, IF YOU DEMAND IT, I ASSURE YOU I CAN LET YOUR DEATH BE QUITE, QUITE SLOW!
TELL ME ALL THAT, LANE, AND PERHAPS YOUR DEATH WILL BE PAINLESS...
THE H.I.V.E. COVERED ALL BASES, DIDN'T THEY?
LOIS TRAPPED BELOW AND I CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO HELP HER!
RADIATION WASTE SINKING DOWN TO THE EARTH, AND I'M POWERLESS TO PREVENT IT!
BLAST THEM ALL-- THEY'RE KILLING A WORLD AND I CAN'T STOP THEM--

..OR CAN I?
MAYBE MY HEAT VISION CAN'T BURN AWAY THAT RADIOACTIVE WASTE..
..BUT THE SUN CERTAINLY HAS THAT POWER, AND MORE!
IT'S CONSTANTLY EMITTING POWERFUL SOLAR WINDS OF PLASMA...
...WHICH HEATS UP TO MORE THAN ONE MILLION DEGREES!
IF I CAN RUNNEL THOSE SOLAR WINDS EARTHWARD...
...FAN THEM FURTHER OUT THAN THEY'D NORMALLY FLARE--
--THEIR HEAT SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
IT'S OBVIOUS THE H.I.V.E. INTENDED TO EXPLAIN IN ADVANCE THAT THEIR ROCKET COULDN'T BE APPROACHED, BUT I NEVER GAVE THEM THE CHANCE.
THEY PROBABLY WANTED TO BLACKMAIL THE PLANET, NOT DESTROY IT!
BUT THEY WILL IF MY PLAN DOESN'T SUCCEED!

WHILE BELOW, ON OUR IMPERILED PLANET...
WHY WON'T YOU BEG, LANE?
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT I COULD SAVE YOU PAIN?
NO WAY, LADY, YOUR KIND JUST WANTS TO INTIMIDATE OTHERS.
YOU'LL KILL ME, BUT I WON'T LET YOU GLOAT OVER IT.
THEN YOU WILL DIE SLOWLY AND EVER SO PAINFUL -- EH?
THE SKY? IT'S ON FIRE?!?
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO THE ROCKET!
THAT SOMETHING MUST BE SPELLED -- SUPERMAN!
YOUR PLAN IS THROUGH, LADY --
--AND SO ARE YOU!
BEAUTIFUL, LOIS --
-- I COULDN'T HAVE DONE BETTER MYSELF!
THE H.I.V.E. FAILED, LOIS --
-- AND I'VE TAKEN CARE OF THEIR METROPOLIS BASE!
YOU MEAN WE CAN FINALLY RELAX?
GUYS, WHAT SAY WE ALL GO OUT AND CELEBRATE!
I COULD SURE USE A GOOD DINNER!
DON'T CELEBRATE FOR LONG, LOIS! THE H.I.V.E. MAY BE FINISHED IN METROPOLIS, BUT AN EVEN GREATER THREAT RETURNS NEXT ISSUE!
LORD SATANUS!
ON SALE MAY 27! IT'S A DATE!
17

UTILIZING A FRAGMENT OF A WHITE DWARF STAR, NUCLEAR PHYSICIST RAY PALMER IS ABLE TO SHRINK TO MICROSCOPIC SIZE!
WITH A HELMET DESIGNED BY HIS FATHER, HAL JORDAN RIDES THE RADIO WAVES IN HIS WAR AGAINST CRIME!
TOGETHER THEY ARE THE ACTION-PLUS ADVENTURERS...
The ATOM
AIR WAVE
THEY'RE BOTH DEAD!
WHAT--?!
DOES THAT MEAN WHEN I FOUGHT THEM, I KILLED THEM?
A TERRORIST PLOT TO ATOM-BOMB A CONVENTION OF NUCLEAR PHYSICISTS! A MYSTERIOUS 'MASTERMIND BEHIND THE SCHEME.' BUT TWO DEATHS DON'T BRING AN END TO THE THREAT AS THE ATOM MUST SEARCH ABOUT FOR...
"GROUND ZERO--WHERE?"
BOB ROZAKIS . writer
ALEX SAVIUK . penciller
F. CHIARAMONTE . inker
COSTANZA . letterer
TOM ZILKO . colorist
JULIUS SCHWARTZ . editor


YOU HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THEIR DEATHS, ATOM. THESE MEN WERE MURDERED--
--BY REMOTE CONTROL! LOOK AT THIS--!


A MINI-SIZED DEVICE PLANTED IN HIS NECK--
--WHICH MEANS THE KILLER COULD HAVE TRIGGERED THEIR DEATHS FROM ANY-WHERE ON EARTH!
BUT WHO--? WHERE--?

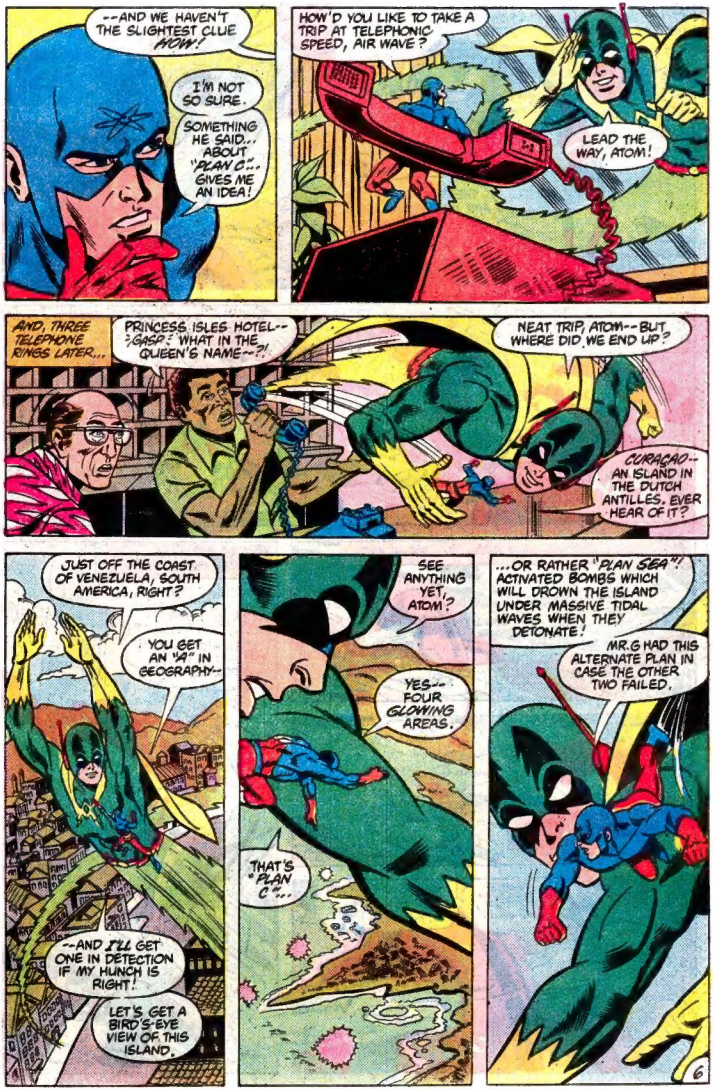
THAT'S RIGHT, OFFICER-- Y'ALL KEEP ON WONDERIN'!
NO WAY IN HEAVEN YOU'LL FIND ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THOSE TWO BUNGLERS AND YOURS TRULY!
MEANTIME, NO NEED FOR ME TO PRESS THE PANIC BUTTON-- I STILL HAVE ONE MORE SHOT AT THOSE NUKE-KOOKS.
AND NO WAY I CAN MISS-- RIGHT, FIGHTIES?
MISS BENITEZ, I'LL SEE JORGENSON NOW.
MR. JOHN JORGENSON, SIR.
HOW DO YOU DO, MR. G. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU FOR QUITE SOME TIME.
SO HAVE I!
BELIEVE ME, SO HAVE I!
LET'S NOT BEAT AROUND THE BUSH, MY GOOD MAN. I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING MY FIRM AND ITS OPERATIONS.
AND I'M HAPPY TO TELL YOU THAT YOU CAN STOP NOSYING AROUND.
GLADSTONE
I'M COMING RIGHT UP FRONT WITH YOU, JORGENSON--I'M GOING TO TELL YOU JUST WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW!
I BELIEVE IN TAKING THE BULL BY THE HORNS, SO TO SPEAK!
2

THIS IS A PLEASANT SURPRISE, MR. G-- I GREATLY APPRECIATE IT.
PLEASE PUT YOUR 'PRECIATION ON HOLD FOR A SPELL.
RING
HELLO...? HELLO...! WHO IS IT--?
IS ANYBODY THERE?
FOR THE LAST TIME... HELLO?
DURN FOOL TELEPHONE SYSTEM! MAYBE I'LL TAKE IT OVER ONE OF THESE DAYS!
ANYWAY, AS I WAS SAYING-- I'M A MAN WHO BELIEVES IN STRAIGHT TALK-- STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER, SO TO SPEAK!
NOW LISSEN HEAH-- I MADE MY MONEY IN OIL-- AND THAT'S GOOD! THERE'S A CONVENTION OF NUCLEAR POWER FELLAS GOING ON IN CURAÇAO-- AND THAT'S NOT GOOD!
YOU WANNA KNOW WHY--? NUCLEAR POWER CUTS INTO MY BUSINESS...
...SO I ARRANGED TO GET RID OF 'EM ALL!
I BEG YOUR PARDON! DO YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU SET UP A MASS MURDER OF ATOMIC SCIENTISTS?
I SAY WHAT I MEAN! I'M ELIMINATING MY COMPETITION!
UNFORTUNATELY, DUE TO CIRCUM-STANCES BEYOND MY CONTROL, PLAN A AND PLAN B DIDN'T COME OFF AS EXPECTED...
...BUT YOU'VE GOT A "PLAN C"--?
SO TO SPEAK!
3

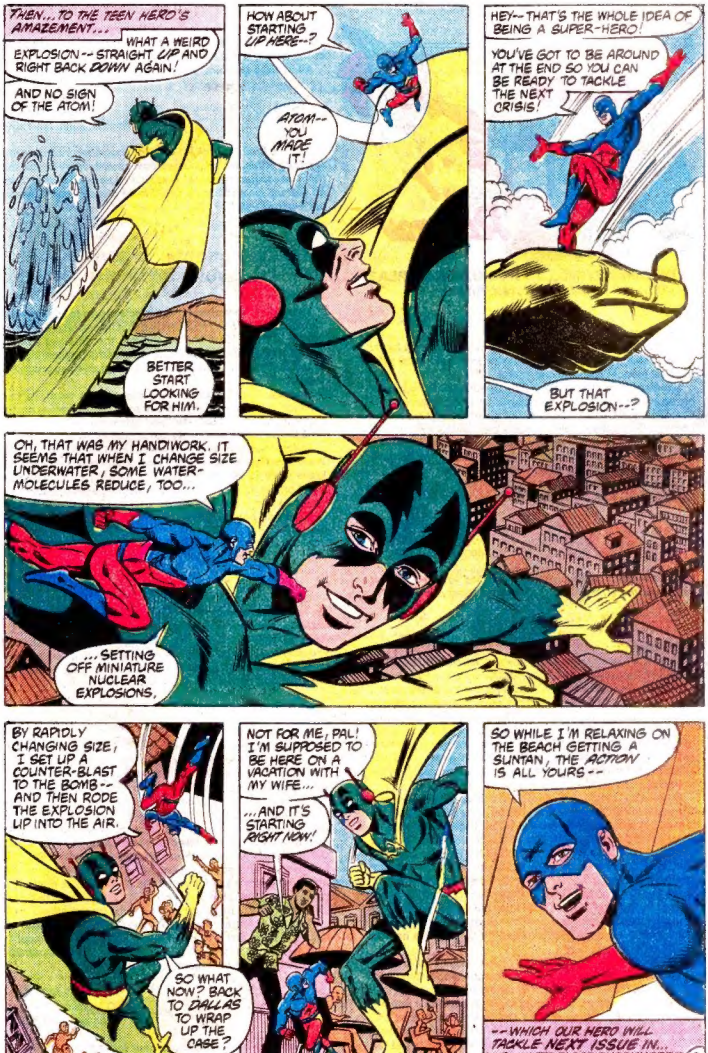
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS?
BECAUSE I LIKE TO BE UP FRONT, AS I SAID--
--AND BECAUSE YOU'LL NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO REPEAT A SINGLE WORD OF IT, JOHN JORGENSON -- ALIAS...
...DISTRICT ATTORNEY JACK JORDAN!
"PLAN C" AS YOU CALL IT--HA HA--IS FOOL PROOF!
I'VE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME YOUR OFFICE WAS INVESTIGATING ME, JORDAN.
DID YOU REALLY THINK USING A PHONEY NAME AND DISGUISE WOULD FOOL ME?
I'M ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN IN DALLAS--AND MY MONEY BUYS ME ALL THE POWER AND INFORMATION I NEED
AND SINCE YOU WERE GUNNING FOR ME, SO TO SPEAK--
--IT'S ONLY FAIR I NOW GO GUNNING FOR YOU!
"PLAN C"--FUNNY, I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT THAT WAY--BUT IT SURE FITS!
SEE YOU IN HADES, MR. D.A.
HERE'S WHERE AIR WAVE MAKES HIS MOVE!
THIS CALLS FOR THE ATOM TO SPRING INTO ACTION!
4

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

I'LL STOP HIM FROM FIRING!
I'LL MAKE HIM MISFIRE!
ATOM... HERE?!
HUNH--AIR WAVE?!
KWAMM!
THOSE DUMB INFORMANTS OF MINE--THEY DIDN'T KNOW JORDAN HAD A BACK-UP TEAM OF COSTUMED DO-GOODERS.
I'LL DEAL WITH THEM AFTER I KNOCK OFF JORDAN.
NOT IF I GET IN THIS "SHOT" FIRST!
KRSPLASH!
TRY SHOOTING FISH IN A BARREL... OR AN AQUARIUM--SO TO SPEAK!
AND WHEN ATOM AND AIR WAVE COME TO...
SHOW'S OVER, FRIENDS! AND THANKS TO YOUR DOUBLE-DISTRACTION, I'M STILL ALIVE!
LOOKS LIKE MR. G WILL BE IN NO CONDITION TO TALK FOR A LONG TIME--
JUST WHEN EVERY MOMENT IS CRITICAL!
HE'S GOT A PLAN IN THE WORKS TO WIPE OUT A CONVENTION OF NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS--
5


--AND WE HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST CLUE ATOM!
I'M NOT SO SURE.
SOMETHING HE SAID... ABOUT "PLAN C"... GIVES ME AN IDEA!
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO TAKE A TRIP AT TELEPHONIC SPEED, AIR WAVE?
LEAD THE WAY, ATOM!
AND, THREE TELEPHONE RINGS LATER...
PRINCESS ISLES HOTEL--?GASP!? WHAT IN THE QUEEN'S NAME--?!
NEAT TRIP, ATOM--BUT WHERE DID WE END UP?
CURAÇAO--AN ISLAND IN THE DUTCH ANTILLES. EVER HEAR OF IT?
JUST OFF THE COAST OF VENEZUELA, SOUTH AMERICA, RIGHT?
YOU GET AN "A" IN GEOGRAPHY--
--AND I'LL GET ONE IN DETECTION IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT!
LET'S GET A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THIS ISLAND.
SEE ANYTHING YET, ATOM?
YES--FOUR GLOWING AREAS.
THAT'S "PLAN C"...
...OR RATHER "PLAN SEA"! ACTIVATED BOMBS WHICH WILL DROWN THE ISLAND UNDER MASSIVE TIDAL WAVES WHEN THEY DETONATE!
MR. G HAD THIS ALTERNATE PLAN IN CASE THE OTHER TWO FAILED.

YOUR JOB IS TO DEFUSE THREE OF THE BOMBS BY ZAPPING THROUGH THEM IN YOUR ENERGIZED STATE.
THE BRIGHTEST--AND MOST OMINOUS--WILL REQUIRE MY SPECIALIZED HANDLING.
THIS BABY IS ABOUT TO REACH THE BLOWING POINT--
--WHICH MEANS I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TRICKY TO COUNTERACT ITS POWER!
TRICKY...
...AND DANGEROUS!
KLIK
KLIK
MEANWHILE...ACROSS--AND AROUND--THE ISLAND...
THAT'S ONE...
...TWO...
...THREE STRIKES AND OUT!
NOW TO ZIP BACK AND SEE HOW ATOM'S DOING.
BUT AS AIR WAVE ROUNDS THE ISLAND...
OH NO--! NOTHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED WITH MY BOMBS!
HOPE ATOM WASN'T CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT!
SPLABOOOM!


THEN...TO THE TEEN HERO'S AMAZEMENT...
WHAT A WEIRD EXPLOSION -- STRAIGHT UP AND RIGHT BACK DOWN AGAIN!
AND NO SIGN OF THE ATOM!
BETTER START LOOKING FOR HIM.
HOW ABOUT STARTING UP HERE--?
ATOM-- YOU MADE IT!
HEY-- THAT'S THE WHOLE IDEA OF BEING A SUPER-HERO!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE AROUND AT THE END SO YOU CAN BE READY TO TACKLE THE NEXT CRISIS!
BUT THAT EXPLOSION--?
OH, THAT WAS MY HANDIWORK. IT SEEMS THAT WHEN I CHANGE SIZE UNDERWATER, SOME WATER-MOLECULES REDUCE, TOO...
...SETTING OFF MINIATURE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS.
BY RAPIDLY CHANGING SIZE, I SET UP A COUNTER-BLAST TO THE BOMB-- AND THEN RODE THE EXPLOSION UP INTO THE AIR.
SO WHAT NOW? BACK TO DALLAS TO WRAP UP THE CASE?
NOT FOR ME, PAL! I'M SUPPOSED TO BE HERE ON A VACATION WITH MY WIFE...
...AND IT'S STARTING RIGHT NOW!
SO WHILE I'M RELAXING ON THE BEACH GETTING A SUNTAN, THE ACTION IS ALL YOURS--
--WHICH OUR HERO WILL TACKLE NEXT ISSUE IN... "AIR WAVES CLOSE ENCOUNTER!"
8

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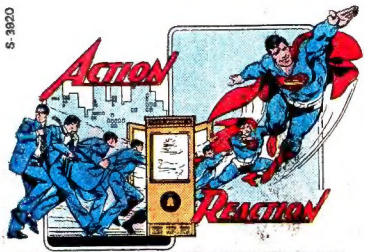

c/o DC COMICS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Editor:

What a milestone! "Star-Kill" in *ACTION* #528 was by far the best story I've read in this magazine in years! Maybe even the best story in *any* comic in years!

The story manipulated my feelings all throughit, especially on pages 14 and 15 where *Superman* was comparing the destruction of Olion to the death of his own Krypton. I enjoy seeing a hero's true emotions once in a while.

Another thing I like is the irony in the character of *Brainiac*: He is a robot, supposedly emotionless, yet he shows so many emotions in this issue: regret, fear, and worry.

I'm anxiously awaiting next issue's "I Have Two Eyes, But I Cannot See!" Your cliffhanger this issue really grabbed me!

LEE BROOKER,
730 Randolph Road,
Mogadore, OH 44260

Let's hope each successive issue grabbed you, Lee, so that you're out there this month seeing your letter in print!—BR

* * *

Dear Actioneers:

"Star-Kill" could just as easily have appeared in *DC COMICS PRESENTS* inasmuch as it was a *Superman/Brainiac* team-up. Cripes, *Brainiac's* logo was even at the top of the splash page. Yet, as I look back at the story now, there was really no place for it *but ACTION COMICS*. The tale is loaded with action scenes and that's how it should be. Some of us longtime readers carp about the lack of characterization, strong plotting and continuity in comics, but solid action drew us to the medium in the first place. It's a pleasure to see it well-executed.

Brainiac's "machine", as it is called, resembled the Warworld in *DCCP* a little too closely for my originality-seeking tastes, but it certainly did provide a challenge to *Superman's* powers. I'm a trifle miffed at *Brainiac*—he created the darned thing, yet he sits back in the comfort of his flying saucer and lets *Superman* get clobbered by it. This is a team-up? I almost suspect it is a clever way for old Greenie to destroy the Man of Steel, but *Brainiac* has been programmed for good for good. ("For good for good"?) Even with this knowledge, it took me a long time to accept that scene where *Superman* and *Brainiac* shook hands—*Brainiac's* been rotten for so long, it's hard to look at him as a good guy.

Getting back to the admirable action, Marv Wolfman (in conjunction with Curt Swan, who made the whole thing *look* exciting) cooked up some tough situations for *Supes* to get into and ultimately out of. One could sense *Superman's* intense strain as he fought to escape the potent suction of the machine, inch by inch. We all shared his feelings of triumph as he kicked free in one mighty thrust, but likewise shared his grief as he attempted unsuccessfully to rescue a doomed planet. We remember Krypton too, *Superman*. Thus it was with your impetuous vengeance that we watched you storm the invidious device, only to be agonizingly defeated. For better or for worse, we're with you, *Superman*.

All in all, a stunning piece of story-telling.

MARK LAGASSE,
R.D. #1, Box 116,
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

You know, Brainiac really missed the boat when it came to that machine of his. He could have built smaller models and sold them as vacuum cleaners! That suction power would've been an instant hit and Brainy could have cleaned up! "Cleaned up"—get it? —BR

* * *

Dear Friends,

Yea-a-a-a! I've waited for *Brainiac's* return to see how he's changed and *ACTION* #528 shows that he can be a wonderful source of good. It's a shame, though, that *Brainiac's* return comes on the brink of Earth's doom instead of just coming back to tell *Superman*. "Wait'll you hear about all the good things I've done!"

Anyway, *Supes* and *Brainiac* are a great team. In fact, *Brainiac* is the second greatest hero in the universe, next to *Superman*. Too bad he's destined to become bad again some time in the future and battle the *Legion of Super-Heroes*.

As for *Aquaman*: When and where did *Aquaman* meet *Air Wave* and that creature? I don't remember even seeing an *Air Wave* story in which he went to another world. And while we're on the topic of questions, how did *Aquaman* go to school when he was a child/teenager if he can only stay out of the water for an hour? What did he do, run to the showers every hour?

FRED TRAWEEK,
5624 Walter Street,
Hammond, IN 46320

No, he ran to the water-fountain, Fred. All he needs is a splash in the face or even a drink to refresh himself! As for Aquaman meeting Air Wave, it happened in the previous issue, #527. If you didn't see it, you should have a subscription so you don't miss an issue. You'll find ordering instructions at the bottom of the first page of this and every issue!—BR

* * *

Dear Julie and Bob,

Just a short note (I promise) on *ACTION* #528.

I like it! I liked the whole story, but I want to comment on the reformation on *Brainiac* and his "team-up" with *Superman*. As a long-time reader who has seen Brainiac as *Superman's* arch-enemy for many, many years (I bought my first *ACTION* shortly after he shrunk Kandor.) I want to tell you that I think it's fantastic that he is now a force for good and an ally for *Superman*. I would strongly disagree with anyone who thinks this is a break in continuity or a writer/editor's whim. *Brainiac* has been a "bad guy" long enough. I look forward to seeing him in a new role and I hope he will be used more often. And while I know that someday someone is going to revert him back to his evil ways, I hope you'll give it some time to allow him to remain an agent of good for awhile. Develop him as such before making any changes. He will offer great potential to your writers as a good guy, in addition to adding a valuable perspective to his character.

FRED MORGAN,
2640 Mockingbird Lane,
Florissant, MO 63031

Gee, Fred, we can't wait to see your letter next month after you've seen how Superman changed Brainy back to the evil being he was!—Bob Rozakis